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**VILLAGE LIFE INC. IN RECEIVERSHIP,  
TO BE LIQUIDATED AND ITS ASSETS RETURNED TO INVESTORS**

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NASHVILLE – The Tennessee Dept. of Commerce and Insurance has won court approval of an agreed order placing Nashville-based Village Life Inc. in receivership so that its ``investors'' nationwide can have some portion of their money returned to them.

Village Life's executives, Freddie Lee Carr, Jenelle Cedeno Carr, and Jamie West, have agreed to the receivership. Commissioner Paula A. Flowers is the receiver for the case.

Under the agreed order signed by Davidson County Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle, the receiver has the authority to collect, maintain, manage and disperse the assets of Village Life Inc. and of any assets of West and the Carrs ``which relate to, arise out of or are derived from'' the operations of Village Life.

Because of the legal and financial complexities of the case, it is likely to take several months, at a minimum, before any disbursements are made to investors. Village Life ceased operations last month after the TDCI won a Temporary Restraining Order against the firm, granted by Chancellor Lyle.

The state contends that Village Life operated an illegal pyramid-style scheme that was marketed to clients as a way to pay off a house note, college loan or a car note. The scheme did not truly invest any of its clients' money, but instead relied on the continual recruitment of new members, whose money would be used to pay the obligations of the earlier members.

State officials say the Village Life scam holds a lesson for potential investors who hear such too-good-to-be-true offers. ``Like the old saying goes, if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is,'' said Daphne Smith, Tennessee's Assistant Commissioner for Securities. ``Any time the structure of an investment offer doesn't appear to make economic sense, the consumer should pass it up.''

Village Life held its seminars in at least 14 states during its ten months in operation and claimed to have had 2,400 members.